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July 20, 1965

To The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York

To the Editor:

It is encouraging that the N. Y. Times considers the opinions of professors on political matters worthy of public notice, witness the frequent appearance in your columns of letters from members of the academic community. It seems unfortunate, however, that some of these opinions appear to rate higher news value than others. Thus, an article on page 2 of the N. Y. Times for July 19, under the headline "Professors back policy in Vietnam" reports that 67 (sic) professors "from throughout the country" issued a statement of strong support for United States policy in Vietnam.

Since last February, when an Ad Hoc Committee published as an advertisement in the N. Y. Times a statement of strong criticism of our Government's Vietnam policy signed by 473 Boston Area professors, over 6000 professors have reiterated such criticism. In so doing, together with students, clergymen, and other groups of responsible citizens, the members of the academic profession have taken their place in a great spontaneous movement that attempts to deter the Government from a suicidal policy of escalation and to restore the dignity and moral reputé of the United States before the peoples of the world. So little news coverage has been devoted to these statements that it has generally been found necessary to publish them as paid advertisements.

Admittedly, the articulate group that feels the duty to make itself heard in the Vietnam crisis still represents a sizable minority, even among professors. Yet, the disproportion between pro's and con's is very great, and one regrets that the protesting thousands fail to get the news coverage afforded to the vocally approving few.

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